

No. XXXIV.—REMARKS ON THE SEA-SNAKES IN OUR SOCIETY'S COLLECTION.

With 2 Plates.

I have lately examined all the species of the sub-family *Hydrophinae* in our Society's Collection, which are as follows:—

HYDRUS PLATURUS (Linnè).

Represented by ten specimens, six of which are small, and not in a very good state. All are from Madras, or the neighbourhood of Bombay, the smallest measure $10\frac{2}{3}$ and $11\frac{2}{3}$ inches respectively. In six specimens examined the post-maxillary teeth are 8 in one, 9 in three, and 10 in two. The supralabials and temporals are subject to great variation. Most of these specimens belong to "variety" *bicolor* (Schneider), and one such appears to be an albino, the dorsal band being hardly discernible. The lower margin of the dorsal band is festooned behind in one, and this may be considered a transitional form approaching "variety" *maculata* (Jan). One from Bombay exhibits a series of subcostal spots behind, thus agreeing with the "variety" C of Mr. Boulenger's Catalogue.

Figs. 1 and 2 show two variations. In 1, I think, the long shield beneath the eye is formed by a confluence of the upper parts of the 4th, 5th and 6th labials. In Fig. 2 similarly the shield beneath the eye seems to me formed by a confluence of the 4th and 5th. The upper part of the 6th failing to blend with them.

HYDROPHIS CÆRULESCENS (Shaw).

There are six good specimens, all adult. One of these is from Madras and the rest from the coast about Bombay. All are typically rough from the strong keels on the scales. The teeth in the maxilla are usually 14, in one 13.

HYDROPHIS MAMILLARIS (Daudin).

Four adult specimens of this rare species are to be found on our Society's shelves, and all in excellent preservation. There are usually 4, sometimes 5 entire labials. The 5th and 6th are usually divided or sometimes the 6th only, and rarely the upper part of the 6th is confluent with the temporal. The neck is one-third or less than one-third the deepest part of the body behind in all the specimens, and in the gravid female nearer one-fourth. The gravid female (unfortunately without any record date of capture) measuring 2 feet $8\frac{2}{3}$ inches, contained three fetuses, and a small infertile egg. The fetuses, all females, are perfectly formed, and obviously would have been very shortly born. They measure from 12 to $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The head in all is quite black, and the black bands vary from 43 to 56. The bands in most are complete and discrete or thinly connected below along the ventral shields behind. At midcosta they are as broad or broader than the spaces. In the largest specimen the bands are obsolete subcostally and converted into cross-bars. The teeth in the maxilla are 9 or 10. Fig. 3 shows the usual arrangement of shields. Fig. 4 (the right side of the same specimen as fig. 3) shows the upper part of the 6th labial confluent with the temporal. Fig. 5 shows a confluence between the lower postocular and the upper part of the 5th labial.

HYDROPHIS CORONATUS (Gunther).

Two well grown adult specimens are included in the collection, both from Karwar. They are very typical of the species, which for a marine form shows unusual constancy in the arrangement of its head shields. The teeth in the maxilla are 5 in both examples.